

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS

1. AFTER WEEKLY CABINET MEETING JANUARY 31, DUTCH PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL TOLD PRESS THAT GON WILL APPEAL TO ARBITRATION CLAUSE IN AVIATION TREATY IN EVENT CAB ACTS UNILATERALLY TO CUT KLM'S FLIGHTS BY 50 PERCENT. DEN UYL DID NOT RULE OUT MAKING A VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, BUT SAID THAT IT IS NOT THE FIRST THING IN HIS MIND. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPECTED THAT, BEFORE TAKING ONE-SIDED MEASURES, RESPONSIBLE US OFFICIALS WILL CONTACT GON. HE CALLED THE SITUATION VERY SERIOUS BUT SAID HE HAS NOT LOST ALL HOPE OF AN AGREEMENT. HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT AGREEMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER VAN DER STOEL REACHED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AMERICANS CONSIDER THIS AGREEMENT FULFILLED AFTER LAST WEEK'S TALKS."

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2. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL NRC/HANDELSBLAD OF JANUARY 1 WONDERS

WHAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER MEANT WHEN HE TOLD VAN DER STOEL IN BRUSSELS THAT US WOULD ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE STAND-POINT WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WERE RESUMED. IT OBSERVES THAT US DELEGATION "WERE NOT IN FACT VERY FLEXIBLE AND WERE ALMOST SOLELY MOTIVATED BY GROSS SELF-INTEREST OF US AIRLINES." THE PAPER CALLS ON GON TO "RING BELL HARD" IN WASHINGTON AND "POINT TO TOUGH PROTECTIONIST GAME WHICH IS BEING PLAYED THERE AND WHICH CLEARLY DOES NOT CONFORM WITH LIBERALISING COURSE GENERALLY TAKEN BY US ADMINISTRATION."

3. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL HET PATROL OF JANUARY 30 SAYS IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER HOLLAND HAS RESORTED TO SOLE WEAPON STILL AVAILABLE: THREAT THAT IT MIGHT TURN ITS BACK ON CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SECTORS OF US AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. THE FORCE OF SUCH A THREAT WOULD DEPEND, HOWEVER, IN PART ON ATTITUDE OF OTHER EUROPEAN AIRLINES "WHICH ARE TO BE VICTIMISED BY AMERICAN MERCANTILISM," THE PAPER OBSERVES, REGRETTING THAT SMALL EUROPEAN AIRLINES HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON ANY CLOSE COOPERATION. IT SEES A LAST CHANCE IN ANOTHER TALK BETWEEN MESSRS KISSINGER AND VAN DER STOEL, "BECAUSE POINT IS NOW NOTHING MORE OR LESS THAN POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NETHERLANDS AND UNITED STATES."
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